

1.913  
F3P25  
Reserve

United States Department of Agriculture  
U.S. EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington, D. C.

LIBRARY  
RECEIVED  
★ SEP 11 1941 ★

1.913  
F3P25  
Reserve

U. S. Department of Agriculture

PARTIAL AND PRELIMINARY REPORT OF STUDY OF LOCAL 4-H CLUB PROGRAMS  
IN IOWA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA

CASE STUDIES OF 4-H CLUBS

Stories of typical 4-H Clubs are presented in this section to give local 4-H program development an actual setting. Averages and variations for the 140 clubs studied do not portray the "patterns" of associated factors. The ten case studies present the stories of eleven clubs. The clubs are chosen to illustrate those factors which the observations of the authors indicated as the ones most likely to influence the programs of 4-H Clubs. Each case has been chosen as representative of a group of clubs with similar characteristics or "patterns." Five show variations in the person or group which tends to dominate the program. Five illustrate variations in the emphasis placed on various aspects of the 4-H program. Two portray variations in the composition of the membership.

The first factor considered is the domination of the program. Who determined the program and assumed the responsibility for its success -- adult leadership or the members themselves? If it was an adult, was it the extension agent or the volunteer leader? What part do parents take?

Relative emphasis on various aspects of the club program differed among the clubs. Some club programs included participation in many events outside the community, others featured events held in the community, still other clubs devoted most of their time and effort to regular club meetings. Some groups devoted much more than an average amount of time to 4-H activities and could be said to have a "full" or "ambitious" program.

Clubs varied in the composition of their membership. Some had members who were about the same age. Other clubs had a membership with a wide age range and considerable difference in respect to the years of experience in 4-H work.

In selecting clubs to illustrate the various groups possessing a particular characteristic, the "best" and "poorest" clubs were carefully avoided. As nearly as possible the clubs selected are average or typical of the group having the same characteristics.

Names given in the club stories which follow sometimes are real and sometimes have been changed. Similar charts showing enrollment, completion, reenrollment, age of members, and similar statistical data are

---

Prepared by State club leaders in Iowa, Neb., N. Dak., and S. Dak., and Barnard Joy, Senior Agriculturist, Division of Field Studies and Training, Extension Service, U. S. Dept. Agr.



used for each club. This avoids repetition of statistical data and facilitates comparison of the clubs.

#### MEMBERS ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH GROUP ACTION

The democratic development and execution of the 4-H Club program by the club members themselves are achieved in some clubs by what might be called "formalized group action." These clubs reach decisions through parliamentary procedures and delegate many responsibilities to club officers, committees of club members, and individual members. The agent and adult volunteer leaders furnish guidance but reduce to a minimum the decisions that they make themselves and the responsibilities that they assume. The Lester Leaders 4-H Boys Club typifies the group-action type of procedure.

The farms of Lester Township are about average for the State of Iowa. Most of the farm homes are on gravel roads and have telephones and electricity. The community has an approved consolidated school, which practically all the boys and girls of school age attend. In addition to the school which serves as a community center, there are two churches and a number of other organizations. All are enthusiastic cooperators in community activities.

The local club organization is sponsored by the county Farm Bureau. In 1939 the county had a full-time county agent and a home demonstration agent. The county club committee of the Farm Bureau and representatives of the State club staff plan each year the county club program which includes (a) county club objectives, (b) projects, (c) county events, (d) conferences for local leaders, (e) county activities, (f) contests, (g) a minimum of requirements for each local club, and (h) activities and events outside the county in which the members may participate.

The local leader and the president of the club met three times with the local club program committee to prepare the local club program. The committee used the plans of the county club committee and suggestions from the county agent. Parents were also consulted and suggestions were secured from the club members. The interest of the members was first among the reasons given for the selection of the various items in the program. This tentative program was presented to the whole club for suggestions and changes and finally adopted by vote of the club. Each member was given a typewritten copy of the club program. Typical entries were:

May 22 - - - - - Gordon M.'s home	Oct. 23 - - - - - Joe S.'s home
Business meeting.	Business meeting.
Problems in handling sheep	What we need to improve our 4-H
- - - - - Marvin W.	program - - - - - Club discussion



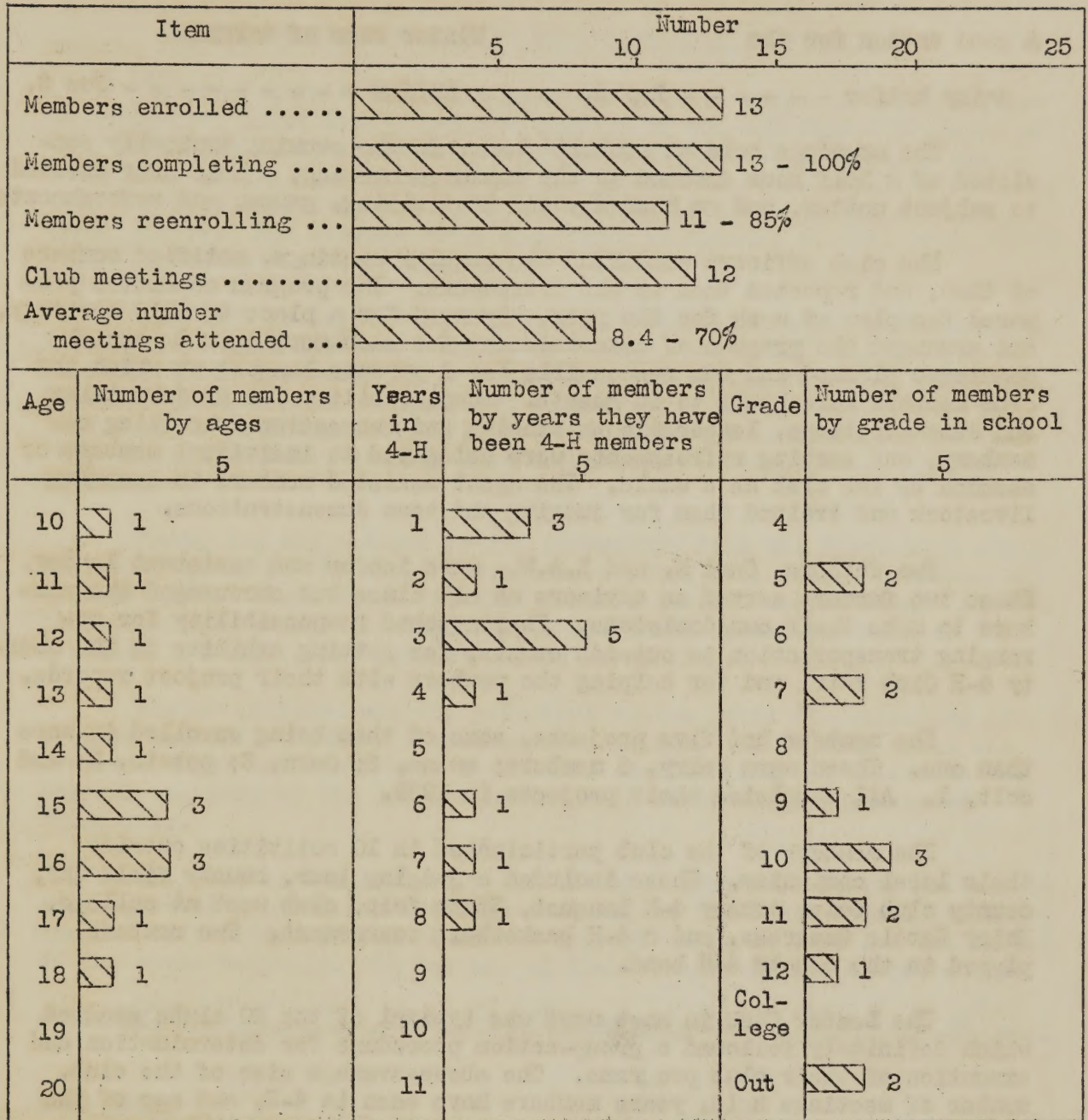


Figure 1. -- Statistical data on club in which members assume responsibility through group action.



Summer feeding of baby

Selection of baby

beef - - - - - Kenneth M.

beef - - - - - LaVerne H.

A good ration for the

Winter care of dairy

dairy heifer - - - - - Roy B.

heifer - - - - - Joe S.

The meetings held at members' homes in the evening typically consisted of a half hour devoted to the business meeting, a half hour devoted to subject matter, and an hour devoted to visiting, games, and refreshments.

The club officers conducted the regular meetings, notified members of them, and reported them to the newspapers. The program committee prepared the plan of work for the year, arranged for a place to hold meetings, and arranged the program of entertainment for each meeting. A special committee planned and was responsible for a parents banquet at which the club members were hosts to 60 guests. Responsibility for project talks and demonstrations, leadership in singing and recreation, enrolling new members, and serving refreshments were delegated to individual members or assumed by the club as a whole. The agent assisted members in securing livestock and trained them for judging and team demonstrations.

Two fathers, Carl M. and L.A.W., were leader and assistant leader. These two farmers served as advisors at all times but encouraged the members to make their own decisions. They assumed responsibility for arranging transportation to outside events, for getting exhibits to the county 4-H Club fair, and for helping the members with their project records.

The members had five projects, some of them being enrolled in more than one. These were dairy, 6 members; swine, 3; corn, 3; potato, 3; and colt, 1. All completed their projects in 1939.

The members of the club participated in 10 activities outside their local community. These included a judging tour, county field day, county club fair, county 4-H banquet, State fair, club week at college, Dairy Cattle Congress, and a 4-H basketball tournament. Two members played in the county 4-H band.

The Lester Club in most ways was typical of the 20 clubs studied which definitely followed a group-action procedure for determination and execution of their club programs. The above-average size of the club, number of meetings held, years members have been in 4-H, and age of the membership were typical for the other clubs in the group. The approximately equal amount of time devoted to business meeting and subject-matter instruction at regular club meetings was also typical. Group-action clubs tend to have a full program. As a group they have more regular club meetings and more local events, and participate in more outside events than other clubs. The Lester Club with 100 percent of its members completing their projects and 85 percent reenrolling the following year was stronger in these respects than the group as a whole.



However, the 20 group-action clubs had the same average percentage of completions (87) as, and a slightly higher average percentage of reenrollment (73) than, the other clubs included in the study.

#### LEADER DOMINATION RESULTS FROM TEACHER-LIKE PROCEDURES

In some clubs a teacher-pupil relationship tends to exist between the volunteer local leader and the members of the 4-H Club. Evidence of this situation is found in the development of the 4-H program by the leader and in the assumption by the leader of the responsibility for such activities as enrolling new members, leading in singing, and arranging local events. The Bierman homemaking club is typical of this group which might be called "leader dominated."

The club is located in a community where the families are predominately of German descent. The local leader, Mabel L., also of German descent, is in her early 30's, unmarried, and living at home. While she does not seem to have a dominating personality, she and her family are looked up to as natural leaders by the rest of the community. She is a high-school graduate, studied home economics, and has special ability in music.

Using the suggestions in the literature from the State club office and those given at the project training meeting, the leader prepared the club program. Items which the club members decided were meeting time and place, outside events in which they would participate, projects to be carried, and topics for project period at meetings.

Member interest was the principal reason given for selection of program content. Members discussed some things, but in most cases the leader thought she knew their interests. Availability of materials and logical sequence of the subject matter were other reasons mentioned frequently.

Only the leader had a copy of the club program. It was written in the suggested outline for meetings included in the State manual for local leaders of home-furnishing clubs. A typical entry is that for the second of the seven meetings. It was one of the two held at the leader's home.

Date April 8, 1939 Time Afternoon Place Mabel L.'s

#### Club Songs

Roll Call: The view from my bedroom window. *Give three values of color P. 7- color book.*

#### Business Meeting:



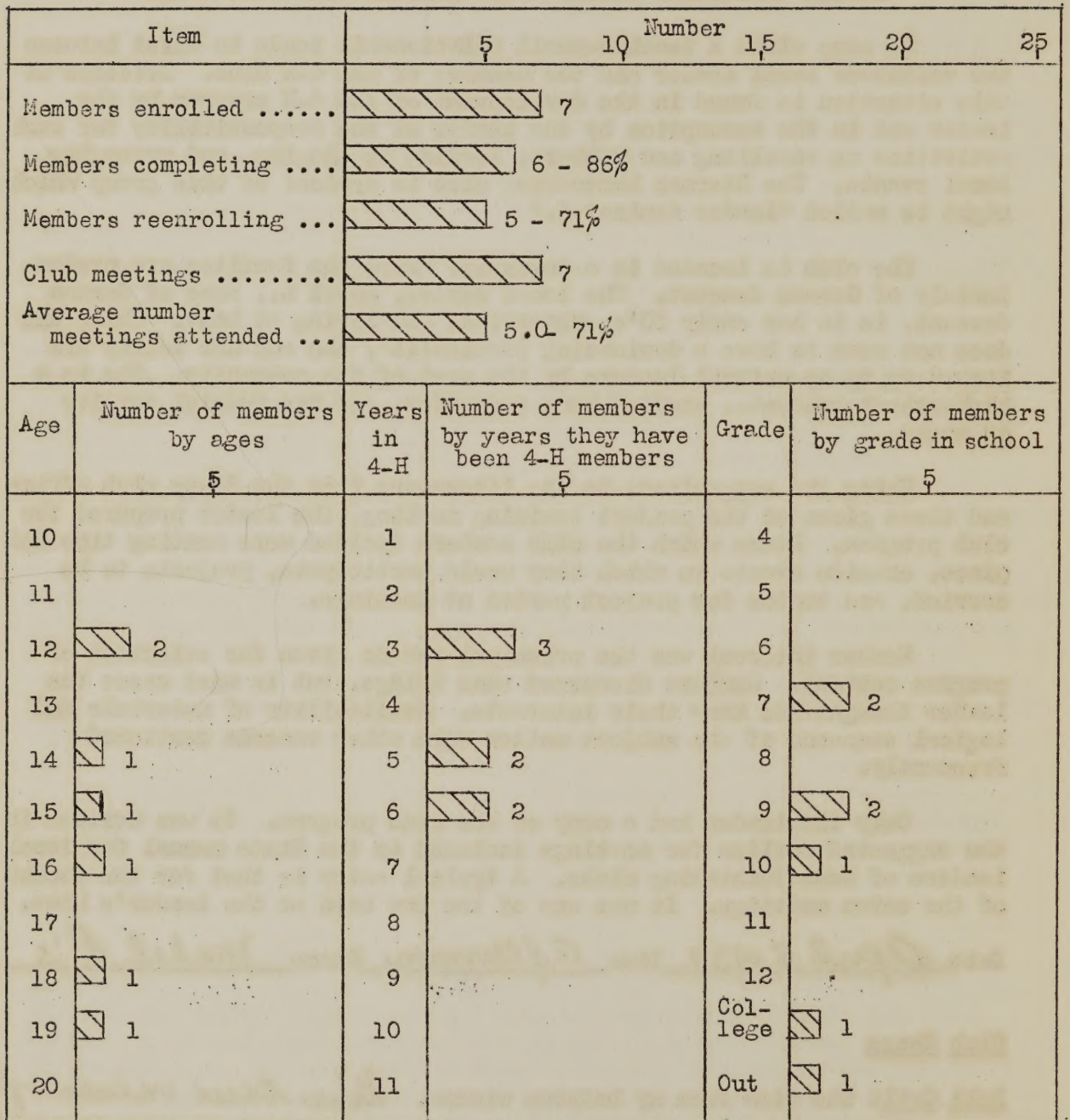


Figure 2. -- Statistical data for club in which leader domination results from teacher-like procedures.



Discussion: Plain hemmed curtains. *Read in manual, P. 12 - 15;*  
*Window shades P. 21 - Demonstrate hems.*

By \_\_\_\_\_

Demonstrations: Measuring the length for a glass curtain.

Making plain hems in curtains.

By *Myrtle D.*

Assignment: The parts of the room that make the background.

Discussion: What I can do to improve the floor in my room.

By \_\_\_\_\_

Social Activities:

In Charge \_\_\_\_\_

*Home work - Picture hanging and laundry bag.*

The club meetings typically consisted of a short business meeting (25 min.); a longer period devoted to subject-matter instruction (50 min.); a period devoted to group singing (20 min.); and varying amounts of time devoted to visiting, games, and refreshments. The leader gave most of the subject-matter instruction.

The local leader also carried the major portion of the other responsibilities. She assisted members with their projects, kept club records, arranged entertainment and recreation for meetings, trained members to judge, led the singing, and arranged local events. The only definite responsibilities given the associate leader were assisting members with project records and telephoning messages between leader and members.

Officers had the routine responsibilities of arranging meeting place, notifying members of meetings, conducting the business meeting, custody of the funds, and reporting meeting to newspaper.

A community picnic was sponsored by the club. A club orchestra, including members of both the girls and the boys clubs in Bierman, led by Mable L., contributed to several community programs, especially at the church. The members showed an interest in the flowers at the leader's home and each planted a shrub she gave them. Members of the club participated in four of the county and State 4-H events.

The Bierman leader devotes considerable time and effort to 4-H Club work and is able and sincere. The members liked their club and did not feel that they had too much direction. The question which arises, however,



is: Are these club members receiving the all-round training which will fit them best to assume places of responsibility in their community.

The Bierman girls were somewhat older and had been 4-H members for a longer period of time than those in most of the other clubs in the "leader-dominated" group. Like most of the other 24 clubs in the group, the number of members enrolled and number of meetings held by the Bierman club were below average. The division of time in regular club meetings with twice as much devoted to the subject-matter instruction as to the business meeting tended to be typical. As a group the leader-dominated clubs were below average in the number of local events held and in participation in outside events. The 25 leader-dominated clubs were slightly below the other 124 clubs in average percentage of completions (84) and had the same average percentage of reenrollment (69).

#### TOO MUCH HELP RESULTS IN AGENT DOMINATION

Most county extension agents take justifiable pride in their 4-H Clubs. Sometimes in their desire to assure success of a club, they take over functions usually assigned to the local leader or to club members. In doing this the agent may dominate the club and its program. Although several of the clubs studied showed some evidence of agent domination, only 3 of the 149 were more dependent, in both the development and the carrying out of the program, upon the agent than on the leader or on the club group.

One of these three was the Prescott Livestock Club. It is located in a small, 12-township county that had only an agricultural agent. Recently shifted from another county where he was a 4-H Club agent, the agent gave approximately 110 days of his time to the 90 4-H boys and girls who were members of seven clubs. The average of 8 members for every 10 days of agent's time devoted to 4-H work is less than one-third of the national average of 27 members for every 10 days of agent's time devoted to 4-H work.

The members of the Prescott Club lived in a township located immediately adjacent to the county-seat town with a population of 3,000. The township is one in which stock raising is the principal source of agricultural income for the 130 farm families. Only six families were represented in the club's membership of eight. Two farmers, one having a son in the club, acted as leader and assistant leader.

All the members had a part in discussing the yearly program for their club at the January meeting. The agent was present and gave suggestions on all aspects of the program. In regard to the place of holding the club meetings, frequency of meeting, and local events to be included in the program, the agent's suggestions were accepted without discussion. After the members had discussed the other aspects of the program for the year, the secretary's notes on the meeting were given to the agent. In his office they were compiled into a very attractive, mimeographed booklet. A copy was given to the leader, assistant leader, and each member of the club. Typical of the entries were the plans for the September and October meetings:



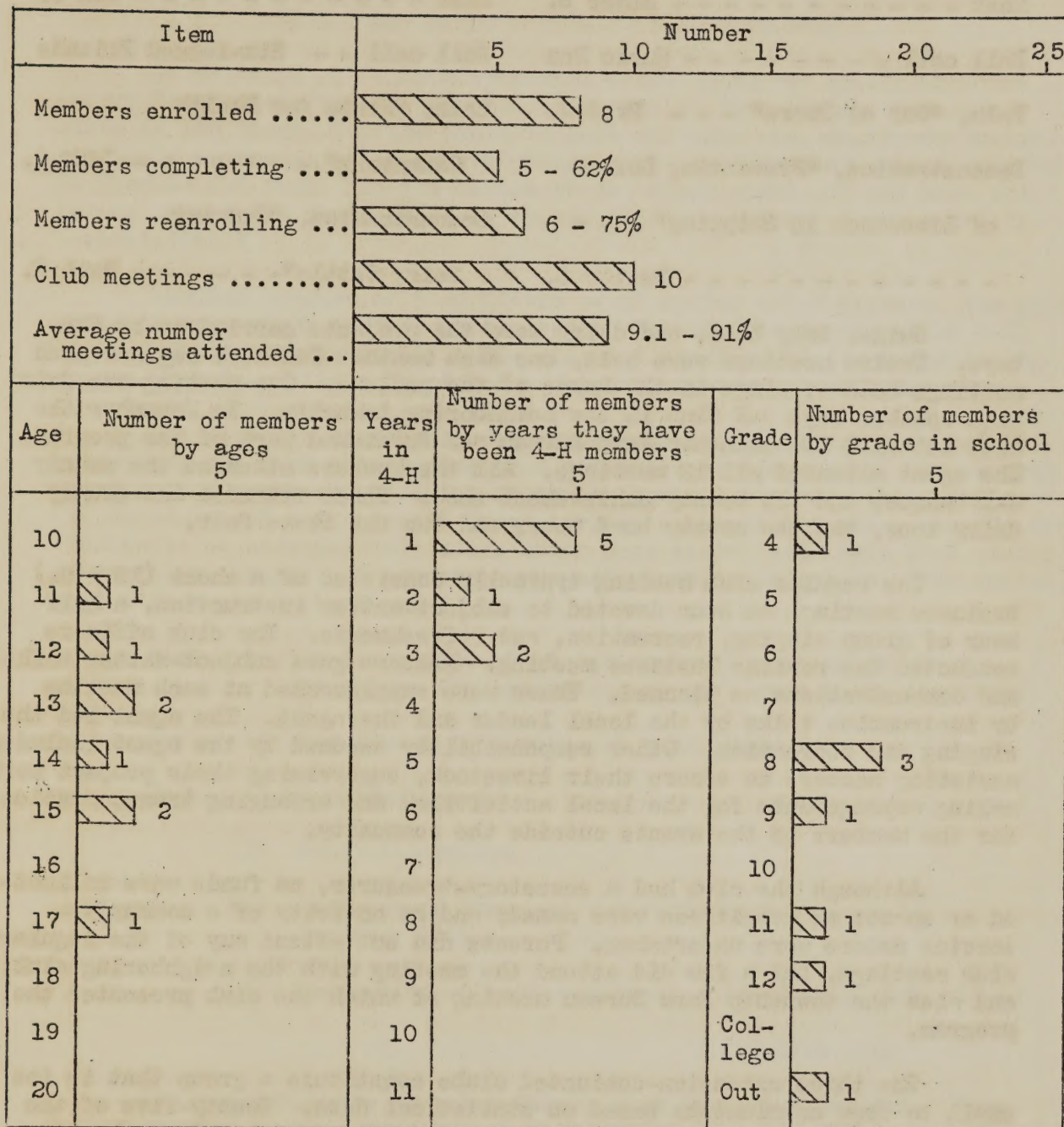


Figure 3. -- Statistical data for club in which too much help results in agent domination.



September 11, 1939

October 9, 1939

Host - - - - - Elmer S.	Host - - - - - Don T.
Roll call - - - - - Music Box	Roll call - - Six-legged Friends
Talk, "Out of Doors" - - - Fred J.	Talk, "Hints for Health
Demonstration, "Preventing Loss	Champions" - - - - - Jack A.
of Livestock in Shipping" - - - -	Demonstration, "Judging
- - - - - Lester S.	Dairy Cattle" - - - - - Paul J.

Swine, baby beef, and dairy were the projects carried on by the boys. Twelve meetings were held, one each month. Ten were regular club meetings held evenings in the homes of the members. One meeting was joint with another boys 4-H Club in the neighboring township. In November the club met with the township Farm Bureau and furnished part of the program. The agent attended all 12 meetings. All the members attended the county 4-H banquet and the county achievement show. Three attended the county dairy tour, two the county beef tour, and two the State Fair.

The regular club meeting typically consisted of a short (15 min.) business meeting, an hour devoted to subject-matter instruction, a half hour of group singing, recreation, and refreshments. The club officers conducted the routine business meeting. Members gave subject-matter talks and demonstrations as planned. These were supplemented at each meeting by instructive talks by the local leader and the agent. The agent led the singing and recreation. Other responsibility assumed by the agent included assisting members to secure their livestock, supervising their project work, making arrangements for the local activities, and arranging transportation for the members to the events outside the community.

Although the club had a secretary-treasurer, no funds were collected or spent; no committees were named; and no activity of a community-service nature were undertaken. Parents did not attend any of the regular club meetings, but a few did attend the meeting with the neighboring club and also the township Farm Bureau meeting at which the club presented the program.

The three extension-dominated clubs constitute a group that is too small to draw conclusions based on statistical data. Twenty-five of the 32 members (78 percent) completed their projects and only 16 of the 32 (50 percent) enrolled again in 1940. The volunteer leaders in charge of the clubs devoted only 7, 8, and 11 days to 4-H Club leadership compared with an average of 15 days for leaders of the other 146 clubs. One did not attend any leader-training meetings in 1939 and the other two each attended one meeting. Possibly the agents needed to devote extra time and effort to these clubs because the leaders and the clubs were weak. Possibly



the clubs were relatively weak and the leaders relatively inactive because the agent assumed so much of the responsibility himself.

#### MORE HELP WANTED - OUTSIDE EVENTS ENJOYED

In contrast to "agent-dominated" clubs there are those which received "too little help." No objective data to this effect were secured in the study, but the State leaders who make the interviews expressed their awareness of it in statements such as; "The club seemed anxious to discuss 4-H work. In its desire to do things right, it had been following county and State suggestions too closely without enough local interpretation."

Whether because of "too little help" or for other reasons, the programs of some clubs feature participation in county-wide and other 4-H events outside the community. The story of the Harwood Crops Club illustrates both "too little help" and a program emphasizing outside events.

The club had a general written program for the year which was developed by the club functioning as a committee of the whole. The program found in the space provided for it in the secretary's book contained (1) three "aims" and a "goal" based largely upon project work, and (2) nine "things to be accomplished" under which were listed such things as number of meetings, keeping of records, and participation in events. The following entries are typical:

Aim: (1) To learn more about the production of grain and to encourage the production of pure seed in my community.

Goal: To grow from 1 to 5 acres of pure seed.

Things to be accomplished:

(2) Study literature

(3) Keep record book and turn into county agent in November 1939.

(9) Recreation and entertainment - (a) County club picnic

(b) Club tour

The program deals almost entirely with the crops project. Each member carried a crops project and also one or more livestock projects. The club was originally organized as a crops club. Sixty percent of the cash income in the community is from wheat and 35 percent from livestock, but there is a trend towards livestock. It was very apparent that several of the 4-H members were more interested in livestock but that they felt that their program must show a major interest in crops.



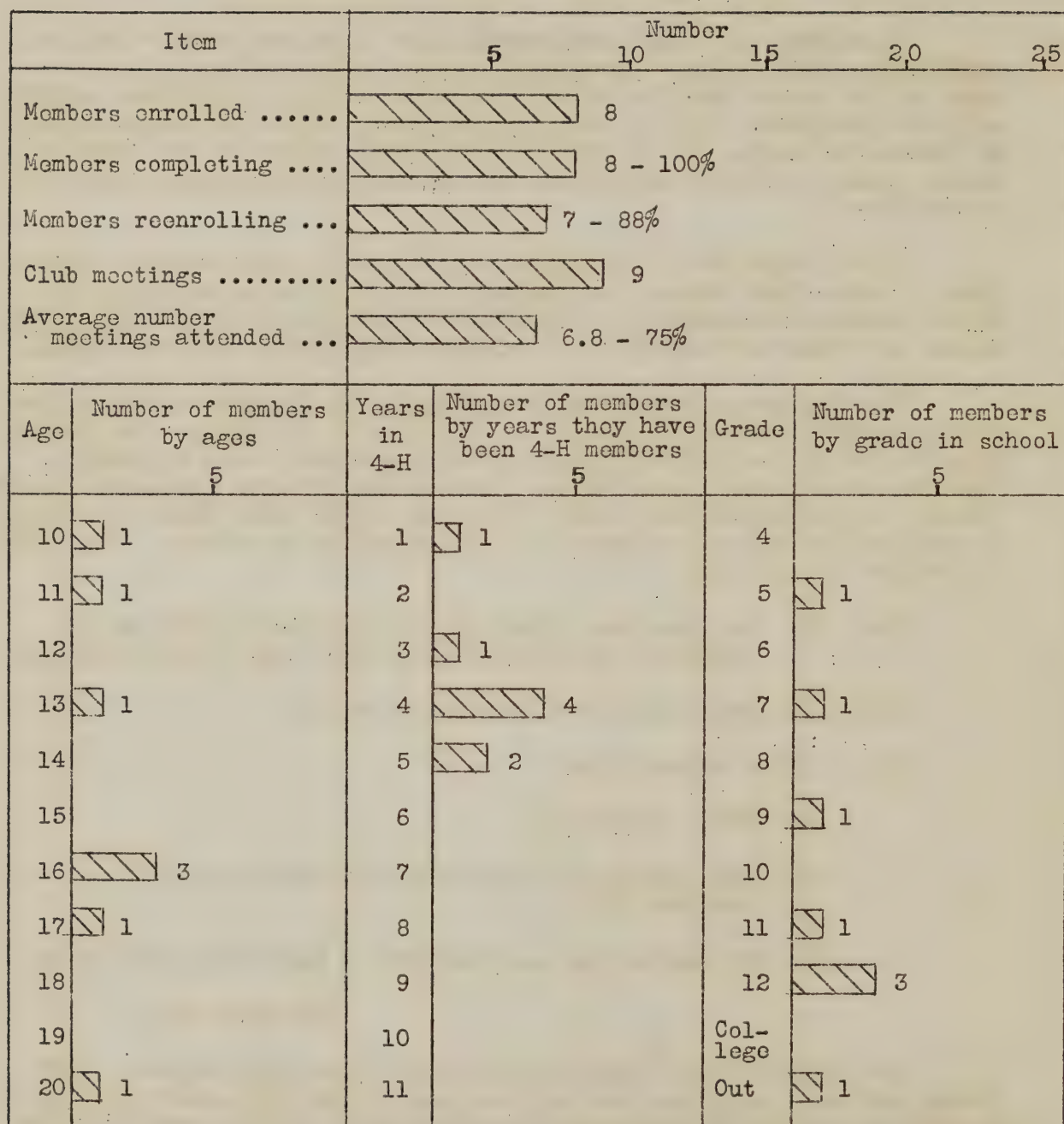


Figure 4. -- Statistical data on club in which more help is wanted --  
outside events enjoyed.



Although there was no apparent musical talent in the club, the members frequently drifted towards the piano for a group sing. They enjoyed basketball, volley ball, kittenball, ping pong, and Chinese checkers. None of these things were a part of the club plans or program. Except for the nine regular club meetings held evenings at the schoolhouse the only local event was a joint meeting held with the home economics 4-H Club.

The agent did not attend any meetings during the year but called twice at the home of the leader. The local leader attended one county meeting and called at the county extension office six times.

The club took part in several outside events. One or two events were attended as a duty or in the spirit of cooperation rather than because of interest among the members.

The participation in outside events was:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Members participating</u>	<u>Days members participated</u>	<u>Miles to the event</u>
County judging contest	June	7	1	3
State fair	June	7	2	50
County picnic	July	7	0.5	50
Community fair	July	2	1	11
County fair	September	8	3	30
County 4-H rally day	October	7	0.5	30
Club week at State College	November	2	4	370

In the members' questionnaires, the things listed as most valuable dealt with only project work, exhibits, and judging. "Music", "manners", and "health program" were listed as things which should be included the next year. To develop more parental interest, the club had decided to meet at homes of the members in the future instead of at the schoolhouse.

Among the 26 clubs whose programs emphasized participation in events outside the community, there was a tendency toward smaller than average enrollments and members who were above average in age and years of 4-H experience. The percentage of members in these clubs who completed their project work was average (87). The percentage who reenrolled in 1940 (76) was considerably above the average for the other clubs studied.

The Harwood Club took pride in doing things well. It was one of several clubs studied located in progressive communities and with a membership of fine, active, aggressive young people. Although doing a good job



these clubs had hardly begun to harness their possibilities, because in their desire to do a good job, they were following too closely the routine suggestions in 4-H literature.

#### SOME PROGRAMS FEATURE INTERESTING CLUB MEETINGS

The regular club meetings are much more important than events outside the community in some clubs. The program of the Grindstone Happy Workers was illustrative of this situation. Capitalizing on western hospitality, this club carried out an interesting program despite the difficulties of distance in a sparsely settled region.

Located in the western Dakota ranch country, the community is 30 miles from a trading center. In the 42-square-mile area from which the club draws its membership, there are 22 families living on large cattle and sheep ranches.

The membership of nine included most of the girls in the community. The club had been organized 6 years before, but the leadership changed at the beginning of the club year studied. Mrs. Birdie T., leader, is an outstanding homemaker in her community, esteemed by the girls and other members of the community. Her own family is grown and club leadership gives her opportunity for continuing her active interest in young people.

Mrs. T., new to 4-H leadership, became familiar with the county 4-H program through county conferences, visits with the county agent, and by studying the literature. Programs were planned at each meeting for the next meeting and were recorded in the program pages of the members' record books. The leader took the initiative in suggesting program topics. Discussion by the club served to divide the responsibilities for the demonstrations and talks.

In addition to the project, singing, health, grooming, safe driving, and conservation were included in the program. In carrying them out the club followed suggestions in the club literature. The program of the third meeting as recorded in the record book of one of the members follows:

Date, time, and place	Club hostess	Subject matter	Health,	Music	Other
	Roll call Recr. leader		Courtesy, Grooming		
Jan. 14 Thorson's 10:00 a.m.	Mildred & Maxine Roll call: Riddles Geraldine: Recreation	Maxine: Cake dem. Betty: Salad	Hope: Manners	Learn: Club Song	Hazel: Talk on Safe Driving

Interest and enthusiasm of the members for their food preparation work resulted from an unusual type of club meetings. They were held from



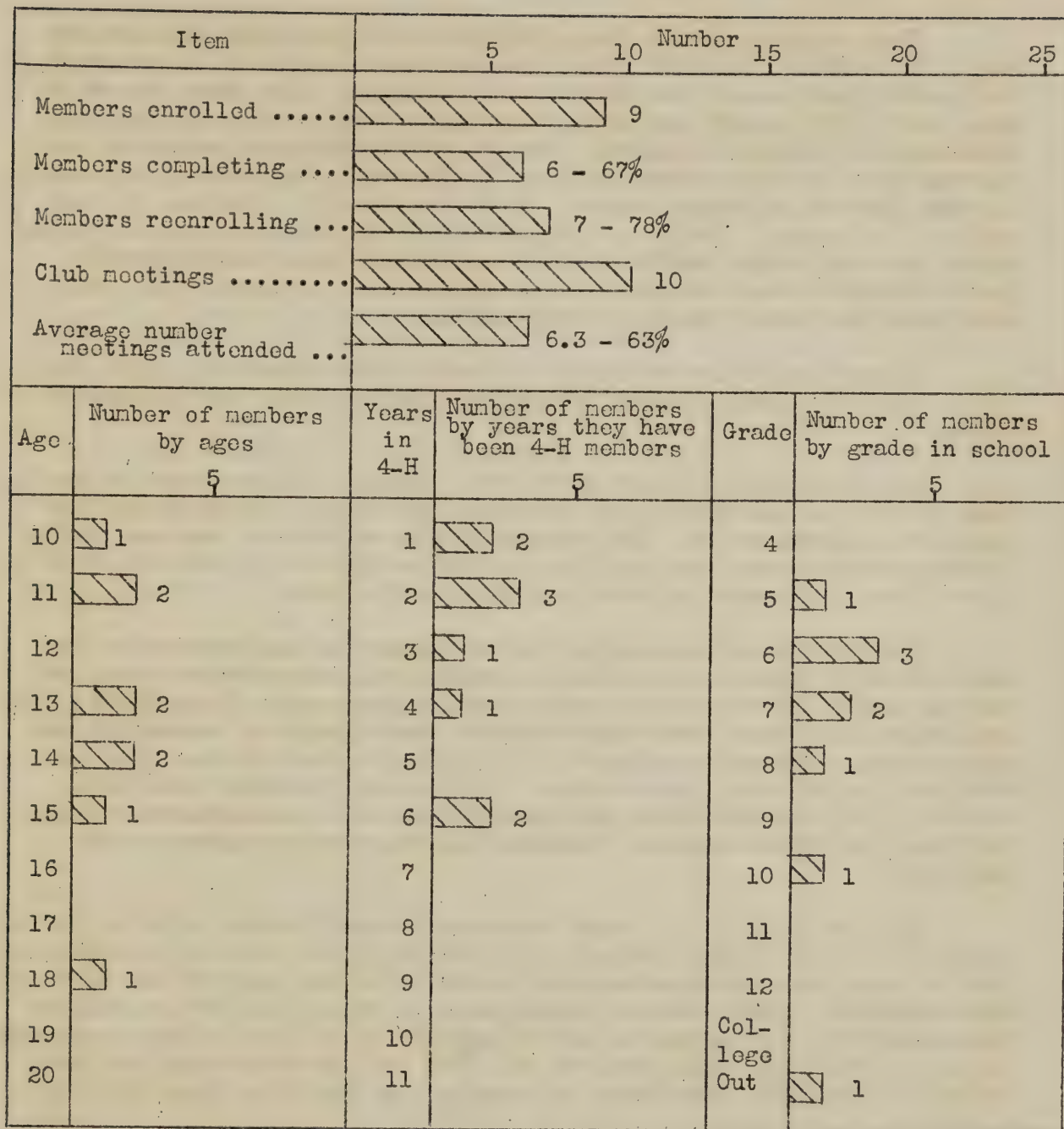


Figure 5. -- Statistical data for club in which program features interesting club meetings.



about 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. These all-day meetings overcame the handicap of long distances, allowed for more thorough training, and provided time for the social phases.

Food prepared in the demonstrations was served with the noon-day meal. A complete vegetable dinner was prepared and served at one meeting but usually only one or two dishes were prepared. When bread was to be made, each girl brought ingredients sufficient for a batch of rolls and took home the finished product. Judging of the finished product at each meeting gave the girls added interest in improving their work. One meeting was devoted to judging alone. Each girl brought a product she had made, to be judged. Health was emphasized at one meeting when the county nurse gave individual health check-ups. The business meeting usually lasted about an hour and another hour was devoted to games. The girls took turns in leading music and recreation.

County activities were few. At county achievement day, the event of the year, the Happy Workers exhibited, demonstrated, and prepared a booth.

The club raised \$11.97 at two food sales. This was used to pay the camp fee for the one member who attended, and to pay for lunch for the group at achievement day. The balance at the end of the year was \$4.78. A handkerchief shower was held for the former club leader and the club assisted Mrs. T. in serving lunch for her women's club.

The leader was responsible for outlining the subject matter for club meetings, kept the club money, trained the demonstration team, and presented some of the subject matter and judging work. The members planned roll-call topics, wrote news stories, took charge of recreation and club singing, and were responsible for their demonstrations, talks, individual project work, and records. The parents furnished materials necessary for demonstrations and project work and transportation to club meetings and outside events. Mothers were frequently present at the meetings.

All but 2 of the 13 other "meeting-centered" clubs had a larger enrollment than the Happy Workers. These clubs held a few more meetings and devoted more time to subject-matter instruction than most of the other 135 clubs studied. Their members participated in only a few events outside the community. The percentage of the membership of the 14 "meeting-centered" clubs who completed their project work (74) and the percentage who reenrolled in 1940 (66) were below the average for the other clubs studied.

#### FULL PROGRAMS INCLUDE A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

A group of clubs that do not choose between interesting club meetings and participation in outside events but emphasize both might be characterized as having "full" or "ambitious" programs. The amount of time which members devote to organized 4-H activities varies with the State, county, and local club programs. Members of the "full program"



clubs typically spend about 100 hours a year attending 4-H meetings and participating in local, county, and State 4-H events. In addition to this, they spend considerable time studying project literature, carrying out their project work, and preparing for the meetings and events.

The Camp Farmerettes is an active 4-H girls club which draws its members from Camp Township, 15 miles southeast of Des Moines, Iowa. Rough, timbered hills and winding river do not make for the best farm land but they do provide a pleasant environment to "grow up in." This type of land predominates in the southern part of Camp Township, which borders on the Des Moines River. The rest of the land is about average for the State.

Eleven of the 18 members attended the Garden Grove Consolidated School located in the open country. Four went to elementary schools, and three had graduated from high school and were not attending college. The club uses the school for the local achievement day and rehearsals. In turn, the club contributes to an annual fund-raising program given by the school.

Mrs. Ralph W., leader of the club, and Miss Vera P., her assistant, were both former 4-H members. They received help at five all-day county-wide leader-training schools conducted by the State 4-H girls staff. Two of these were organization schools dealing with program planning, adolescent psychology, and 4-H activities. Three were devoted to home-furnishing subject matter.

A committee of three members with counsel of leaders developed the program for the year. Suggestions received at training schools and material provided in the leaders' manuals were used. The program as planned was presented to the club as a whole for discussion and approval. Then the committee copied the program into the attractive 24-page mimeographed booklets furnished by the county 4-H Club agent. A copy was given to each girl. The page devoted to the March meeting held at the usual time, 2:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month, is given as a sample:

Date March 11, 1939

Hostess Mary, Marjorie, and Mildred W.

Roll Call What I Expect of a Boy at Social Functions

Business Session

Program Opera Study - Betty J.

Lesson - Color and Room Arrangement - Leader Mrs. W.

Picture Study - Marjorie W., Ruth J., Jean M & C.

This booklet included besides the pages for the program for each meeting a copy of the county project for girls 4-H Club work. This was



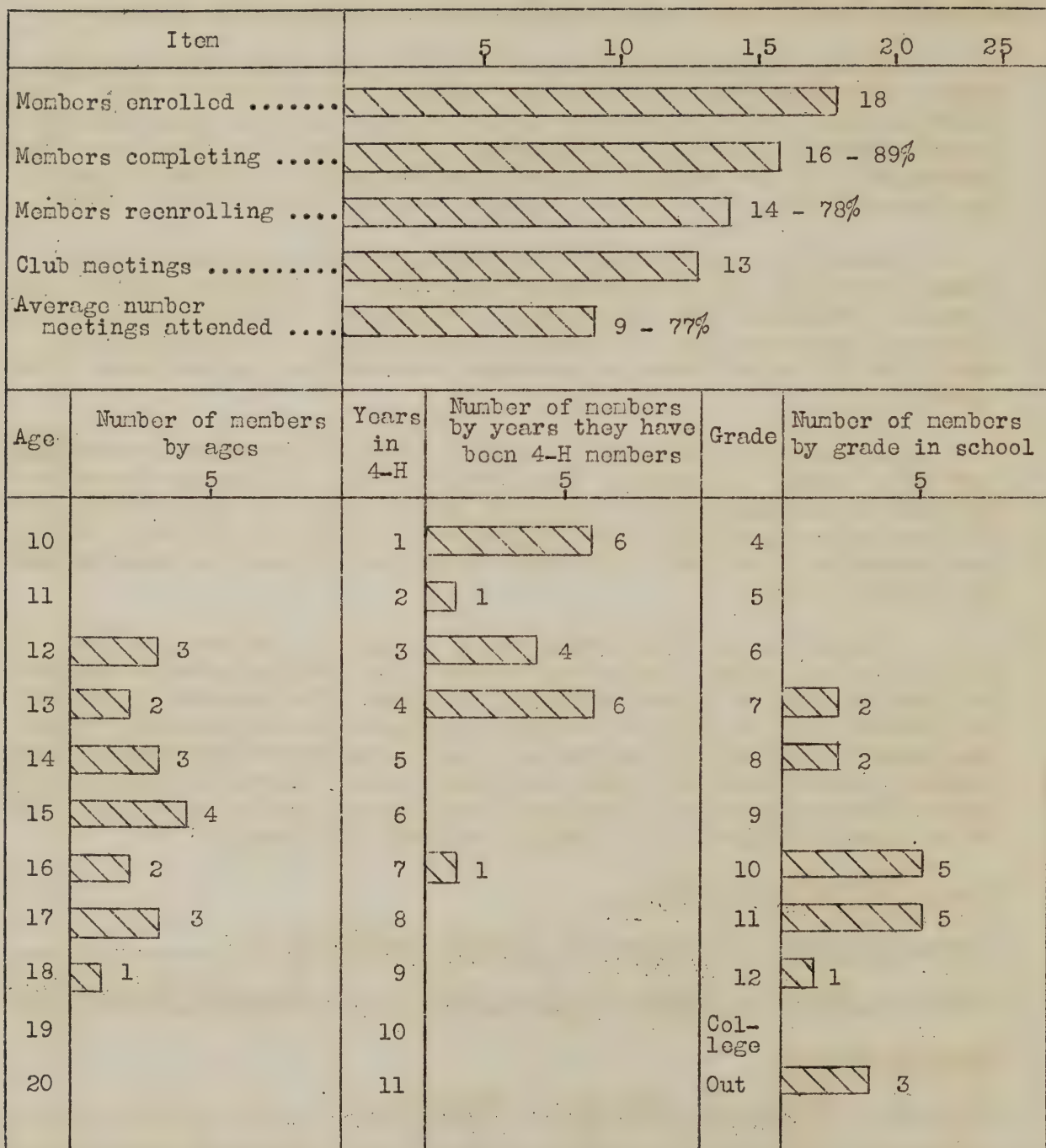


Figure 6. -Statistical data for club in which full program includes a variety of activities.



prepared at a meeting attended by the county 4-H girls committee, local leaders, the officers of the county-wide 4-H girls organization, the county club agent, and a member of the State club staff. It gives the objectives of the year's work, the minimum club and individual goals for the year, and a list of county and State-wide 4-H events planned for all clubs. The program booklet also included the score card for the standard Iowa 4-H girls club and the "measuring stick" for Iowa 4-H girls.

Thirteen regular meetings were held. All but two were in members' homes. The regular order of these meetings and the time usually devoted to each part are:

1. Business meeting (call to order, opening ritual, roll call, minutes, treasurer's report, committee reports, old and new business, and adjournment) ..... 30 min.
2. Health program ..... 10 min.
3. Subject matter (demonstrations and talks by members and leaders, members' project reports) ..... 90 min.
4. Music appreciation ..... 20 min.
5. Group singing ..... 10 min.
6. Refreshments ..... 20 min.

At about half the meetings a small amount of time (10 min.) was devoted to games. The subject-matter period was devoted to the home-furnishing project material, conservation, and personal accounts. At each meeting the girl who was hostess showed her room and the club discussed her proposed and completed improvements. Picture appreciation was an activity carried out in connection with the home-furnishing project. The music appreciation periods included singing and listening numbers and dances from the State study for the year, "Music Gems from an Old World Treasure Chest." The girls' favorite songs were "Cradle Song", Schubert; "Gypsy Dance", Brahms; "On Wings of Song", Mendelssohn; and the club songs.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$18.84 from the previous year. Receipts during the year included \$50 in premiums from the county fair (awards to go into club treasury rather than to individual girls); \$16 from two plays given; \$18 profit from serving lunches at a farm sale and a tractor demonstration; 60 cents from penny marches; and \$17 from other sources. They paid the expenses of their delegate to State 4-H girls convention, the travel expense of their leaders to training schools, the expense of camping at State fair, and small amounts for the Mother-Daughter Tea and phonograph records used in music appreciation. A balance of \$17.58 remained to start a new year.

The local events held included the two plays, a local achievement day, a picnic, health examination day, and the Mother-Daughter Tea.



The club was represented at 17 county, district, and State events. Two members and a leader attended the training conferences for club officers in May and October. One older girl and the leaders attended each of the five county-wide leader-training schools. Two members and the leaders made a round trip of 110 miles to receive a day of training at the district (11 counties) posture school. Seventeen girls and both leaders attended the county-wide rally day in Des Moines. At this inspirational meeting which climaxes the year's work in music, the club participated in the Song Festival and the music appreciation listening test. They had a candidate for county office and provided her with a good campaign speaker.

Seven members attended the county 4-H picnic for girls and boys; 10 girls attended the county 4-H girls camp; and 17 attended the county 4-H fair. A delegate, five girls winning trip awards, and the leader spent 4 days at the 4-H girls State convention at Iowa State College. Two members developed a demonstration which was given in the community and at the county fair. It was chosen to represent the county at the State fair where it placed in the blue-ribbon group. The two members of the demonstration team, the health girl, and the leader were official representatives at the State fair, where they lived in the dormitory and participated in the 5-day program. Fourteen of the other girls and the assistant leader camped at State fair for 7 days. Thirteen girls and both leaders attended the county 4-H banquet for girls and boys. Three members were on a kittenball team representing Polk County at the State sports festival held at Iowa State College under the sponsorship of the Farm Bureau. Two girls joined with representatives of other clubs in the county to usher for the Annual Farm Bureau State Meeting held in Des Moines.

The 31 clubs with "full or ambitious" programs included 9 of the 16 Iowa homemaking clubs studied and 7 of the 17 Iowa agricultural clubs. Of the 116 clubs studied in the other three States, only 15 were in the "full" program group. The fact that Iowa extension agents enroll 16 members for every 10 days devoted to 4-H work compared with 21 members for every 10 days of agents' work in the other three States may be a partial explanation of the difference. The local leaders (not including assistant leaders) of the 31 "full" program clubs devoted an average of 22 days to 4-H leadership compared with 16 days for leaders of the other 118 clubs.

The Camp Farmerettes club is in most respects close to the central tendency for the "full" program group. Most of these clubs have a larger membership than the average for the other clubs studied but not quite as large as the Camp club. Percentage of completions for the "full" program group was high (91) and percentage of members reenrolling the following year was high (72).

#### INTEREST AND HELP OF PARENTS STRENGTHEN 4-H CLUBS

In contrast to the "full or ambitious" programs there are what might be called "meager" programs. Members of clubs with "meager" programs carry on their project work, participate in an average number of "routine" local club meetings, and attend one or two county events. The

amount of time devoted to organized activities by each member is about 40 hours a year.

The part that parents have in the local 4-H Club program varies greatly among the clubs studied. Sometimes they attend the meetings and assume responsibility for some aspects of the club program.

The Golden Workers Club is illustrative both of a "meager" program and of "active parental support." The 10 girls and 5 boys who were members all carried the poultry project. The poultry project was chosen when the club was organized 5 years before the study was made. Due to drought and other adverse conditions, the income of most of the families was then and has continued to be rather low. Poultry offered an opportunity for some income. Members could get started with a small investment and could reasonably expect not only to receive a financial return but also to contribute eggs and meat for the family table.

The club had been served by two leaders, Harold McP. for the first 2 years and Mrs. R. E. C. Mrs. C. is a farm homemaker who had a son and a daughter in the club. Clifford C. the son, had a large part in keeping the club active. The members were encouraged to make their own plans and work them out in their own way. Mrs. C. had been assisted in the leadership by the parents of the other members of the club. Parents assumed the responsibility for arranging a place for the club meetings, transporting members to and from meetings, getting exhibits to county 4-H fair, transporting members to and from events outside of the community, and serving refreshments after each meeting. They helped their children secure the chickens and feed needed to carry on the poultry project.

This club has tried to follow the State and county programs as nearly as conditions in the community would permit. The matter of a time for meetings was influenced by the wishes of the parents. No written program was prepared for the year. Using the suggestions given in the State program book their programs were planned from one meeting to the next.

The 11 club meetings were held from January to September. There was perfect attendance at six meetings and never less than 11 of the 15 members in attendance. Meetings were usually held at the homes of the various members, in the evening. The county agent attended once. The number of parents attending the regular meetings varied from 10 to 14. Fourteen was 100 percent as seven families were represented in the membership of the club.

The typical program at a regular meeting was:

1. Group singing ..... 10 minutes
2. Business meeting (call to order, roll call, minutes, treasurer's report, old and new business, and adjournment) ..... 20 minutes



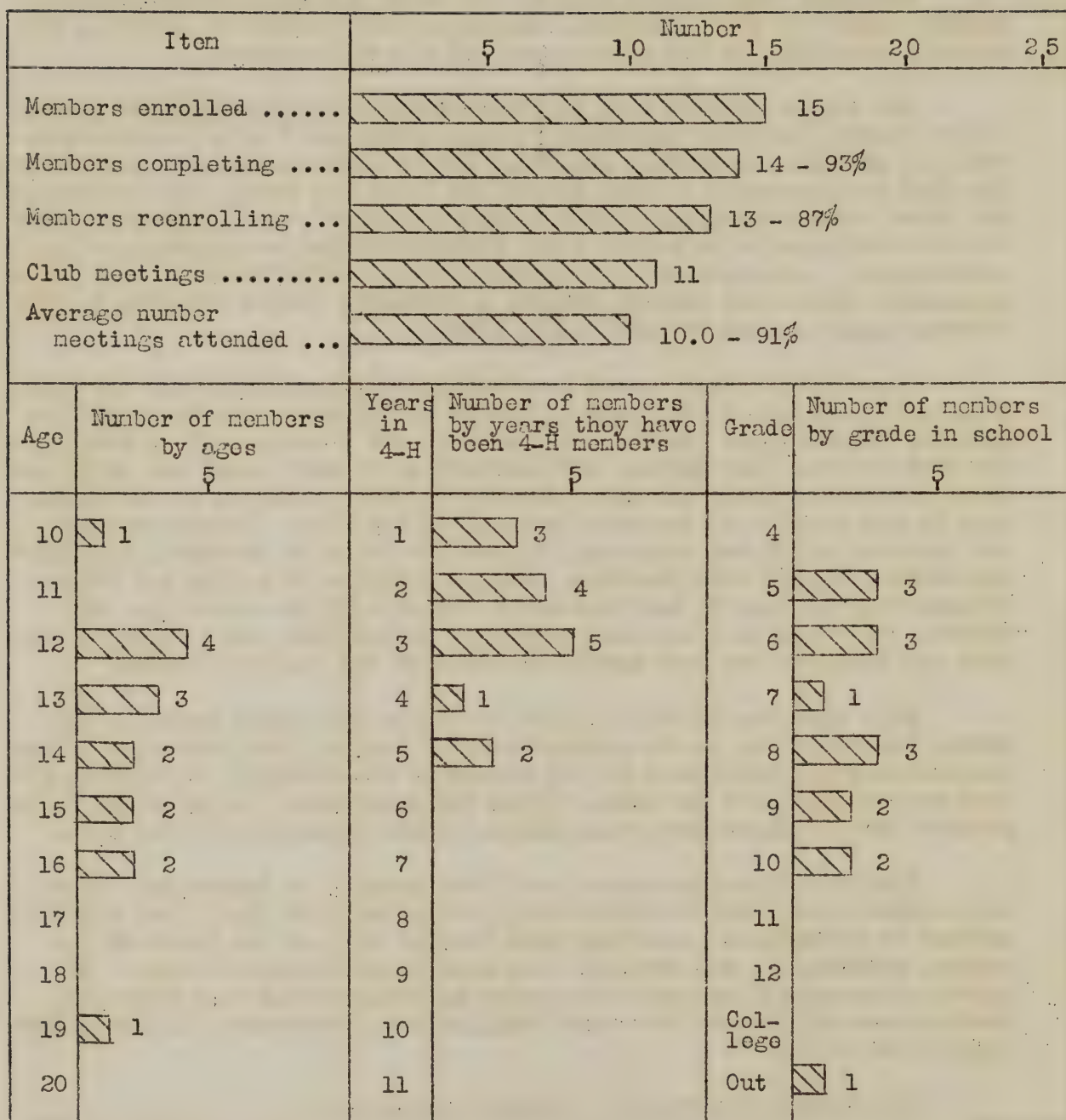


Figure 7. --- Statistical data for club in which interest and help of parents strengthens the club.

3. Subject matter (poultry talks and demonstrations by members of the club) ..... 40 minutes
4. Games ..... 30 minutes
5. Refreshments ..... 30 minutes

The only local event was an ice-cream social in August, to which the public was invited. This was for the purpose of raising money for the club treasury. Total receipts for the year were \$7.25, which included \$5.00 received from the ice-cream social, \$0.75 as a prize in the 4-H parade at the county fair, and \$1.50 from members' dues (1 cent per meeting). This money was spent for dues to the county organization, \$0.50; transportation and refreshments for members at county 4-H Club fair, \$2.85; birthday gifts for old people in the community, \$0.90; and gifts for the leader and assistant leader, \$2.00. A balance of \$1.00 was in the treasury at the end of the year.

The events outside of the local community in which members of the club participated were a district poultry judging school attended by 5 members; a demonstration training school by 2; the county 4-H Club fair by 15; and the county recognition banquet by 3.

Typical answers of the members to the question, "What things in this year's program do you think have the most valuable?", were "Learning how to raise chickens", "Demonstrations", and "Judging."

The Golden Workers Club, although it was in the "meager" program group is not typical in several ways. The 37 clubs in the "meager" group tend to be small (median enrollment - 9). The average percentage of completions (86) and the average percentage of reenrollment (61) for the members of these clubs are below the average of the other clubs studied. These clubs held an average of only 8 meetings during the year but the percentage attendance at meetings (80) was slightly above the average of other clubs.

The group of 15 clubs which had the most "active parental support" included some with "meager" programs and some with "full" programs. This group was similar to the other 134 clubs in number of members, age of members, and years members had been in 4-H work. They held about the same number of club meetings and local events and had about the same participation in outside events. However, like the Golden Workers, the 15 clubs with "active parental support" were significantly above the average of the other 134 clubs studied in three respects: The attendance at club meetings was 83 percent; 90 percent of the members of these clubs completed their project work; and 74 percent reenrolled the following year.

#### MAKING THE BEST OF LIMITED RESOURCES

In communities blessed with good land and good farms, 4-H Clubs have flourished with programs featuring participation in county-wide and



other outside activities in addition to local club meetings. In less fortunate communities, participation in 4-H events outside the community is limited because of the cost involved. Some clubs have solved this problem by having community events that supplement the regular club meetings.

The Ever Busy Homemaking Club and the Custer Corn Club are located in a low-income community in a western Dakota wheat farming county. They drew their membership from the Custer elementary school district which is equivalent in size to a township. The 60 farm families, of German-Russian descent, had been plagued by drought and grasshoppers for several years. The typical farm of 480 acres, once a satisfactory unit for wheat farming, has been too small to permit a major shift to livestock, although dairy, beef cattle, and sheep enterprises have been developed on many of the farms.

The parents assumed the responsibility for getting members to the 4-H Club meetings held at the school house at 8:00 p.m., the first Friday of each month. Sitting in the back of the room, the parents were interested observers. The meetings opened with the two clubs holding a joint session featuring group singing, the flag salute, and the 4-H Club pledge. This was followed by an hour in which the clubs met separately. The usual routine of roll call, minutes, and old and new business was followed by a period devoted to project work. Talks and demonstrations by leaders and members were based upon suggestions in the State 4-H literature and were planned with the leader from meeting to meeting. About 9:30, the boys club again joined the girls for group singing, games, and a program of entertainment, lasting 30 to 45 minutes. At each meeting, the members from one family presented a musical number or some other type of entertainment that had been planned before the meeting. The girls club held six special meetings at members' homes to work on the articles being made for their project work.

Following the State cycle, all the girls took the home-furnishing project. Using the project-club plan, all the boys were enrolled for corn, as that was the only project that those boarding away from home to attend high school could carry out during the summer months. Their interest in other projects was indicated by the fact that 4 also enrolled for wood work, 3 for poultry, and 1 for sheep.

Each club had a picnic at the community park and the boys club helped clean up the park as a "community-service" project. The boys had two parties and the girls held their annual Christmas party. All of these events were well attended by parents, brothers, and sisters of the 4-H members! The girls club held two special meetings for parents and the boys club had weekly Sunday afternoon "kittenball" games at the park during the three summer months.

Together the two clubs put on a play. This was presented at Hebron, a town of 1300, 20 miles from the Custer community. A well-planned publicity program brought out an audience of 500. The net return of almost \$40 from the play was the largest single item of receipts in the treasury (which was a joint one for the two clubs). A quilt raffle netted \$28;

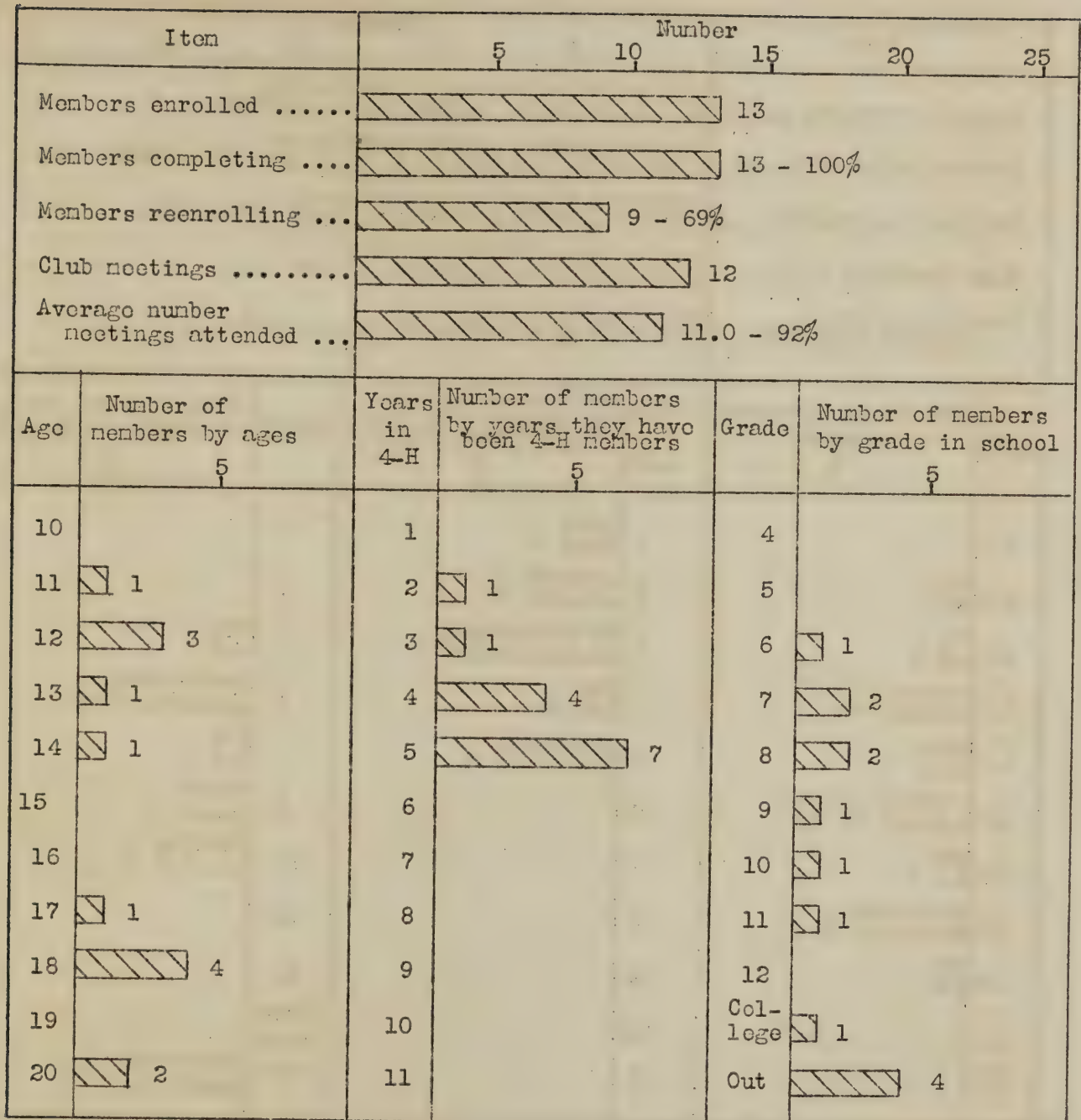


Figure 8. -- Statistical data on a home-economics club making the most of limited resources.



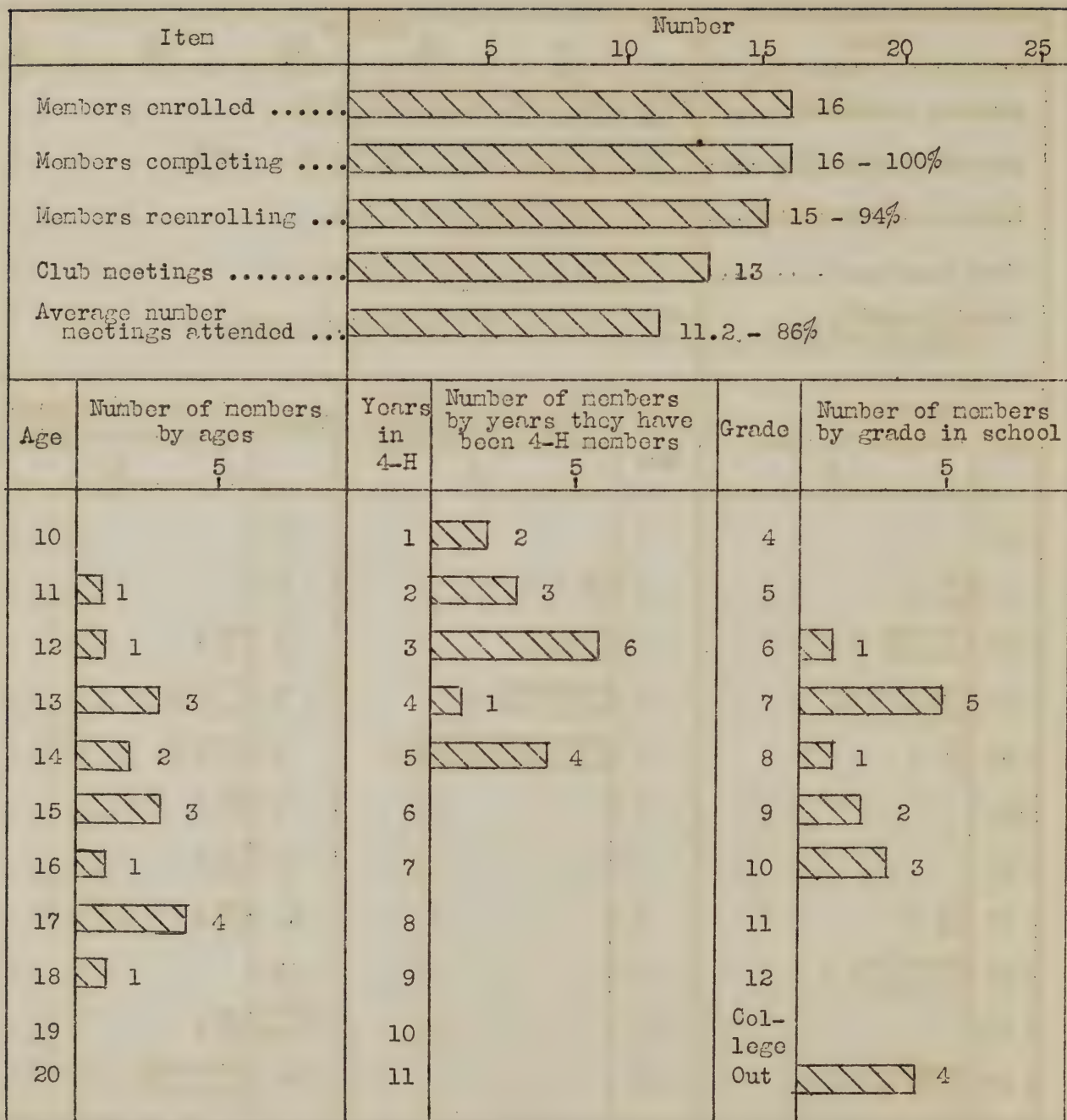


Figure 9. -- Statistical data on agricultural club making the most of limited resources.

awards to the club, \$11; and dues of a penny a meeting, \$1.48. The expenditures of the club were also an interesting portrayal of their program: Letters and postage, \$.91; supplies including kittenball, scissors, and pins, \$6.61; awards to three members, \$2.25; ice cream and cones for picnic, \$5.35; gift to an invalid of a bird and cage, \$4.00; and truck rent to provide transportation to county events, \$10.30.

With the transportation furnished by the clubs, all but 1 of the 29 members attended the county picnic held in June and all but 2 attended the county achievement exhibit held in October. Most of the members attended and a few exhibited at the community fair held at nearby Richarton. One member from each club took the 300-mile trip to attend club week at the State college. The members of the boys club also visited a corn show and made a 60-mile trip to the State capital.

Neither club had developed a written program including plans for meeting and events, but both had discussed their "aims" and "goals" for the year and "things to be accomplished." The girls club had made a written record of this in the secretary's book. Typical entries were:

Aim: 1. To develop leadership and use correct parliamentary procedure.

2. To learn how to select things for a room, etc.

Goal: To select our things carefully.

Things to be accomplished:

1. To have at least twelve meetings.

3. To study thoroughly literature received, etc.

#### Extra Activities

1. To exhibit at county achievement day.

2. To have a program inviting parents and friends, etc.

The interest of the members was the most important consideration in the selection of program content. However, other factors were considered, including community problems, family situations, availability of materials with which to work, financial limitations, 4-H standards set up by the county and State, and future vocational value.

The leaders, Mrs. David D. and Adam H., and the assistant leaders, Mrs. Gottlieb D., Mrs. Reinhold K., and David D., were parents of club members. Mrs. D. and Mr. H. might be called "natural" leaders in the community. Their background and religious affiliations were similar to those of the other parents of 4-H members. Mrs. D. was Sunday School superintendent and held offices in four other organizations. Mr. H. was a



member of the school board and held offices in two other organizations. Each had given the equivalent of 30 8-hour days to 4-H activities, including attendance at all three of the county leader-training meetings and frequent visits to the agent's office. In the girls club, Mrs. Gottlieb D. was responsible for project instruction and Mrs. K. for helping the girls with their project records. The fact that three of the five leaders had received no schooling beyond the 8th grade did not seem to be a handicap to them.

These clubs were stronger than most clubs in low-income communities. Both clubs had a percentage of completions in 1939 of 100. Twenty-four of the 29 members (83 percent) reenrolled again in 1940. For the 21 clubs among the 149 studied that were in low-income communities and had at least three local events, the percentage of completion was 88, and the percentage of reenrollment, 77. However, for the 36 clubs in low-income communities that held 2 or less local events, the percentage of completions was 78 and the percentage of reenrollment, 58. The program of the Custer clubs illustrates how, in a low-income community, 4-H Clubs can plan and carry out their own events, which enrich the program and tend to make stronger 4-H Clubs.

#### GIRL FRIENDS HAVE THEIR OWN 4-H CLUB

4-H Clubs are sometimes organized with a membership of boys or girls of about the same age and grade in school. These members starting together may become a rather self-contained unit, not bringing in younger members. This results in clubs with a homogeneous membership from the standpoint of age and years of experience in 4-H work. A club of this type is the Jolly Seven Cooking Club in a thrifty rural village in southeastern Nebraska.

The girls were from 11 to 13 years of age. All but one were in the 8th grade. The club was sponsored by the three women's (extension) project groups of the vicinity. That is, they interested the members in having a club, secured leaders, and considered the club a responsibility of their groups.

Mrs. C., the leader, had some college training in home economics and had been a teacher. Her 12-year-old daughter was president of the club. Mrs. Z., assistant leader, also lived in town. Mrs. C. devoted 11.5 days to 4-H leadership, including the equivalent of 4.5 days to club meetings, 1 day to visiting homes, 5 days to local and county events, and 1 day to attendance at two leaders meetings. The leader determined the place of meetings, which was at her home, and the topics for the subject-matter instruction period at meetings. The project was determined by the State cycle policy. The club program as submitted to the county agent on the mimeographed form used in Nebraska follows:

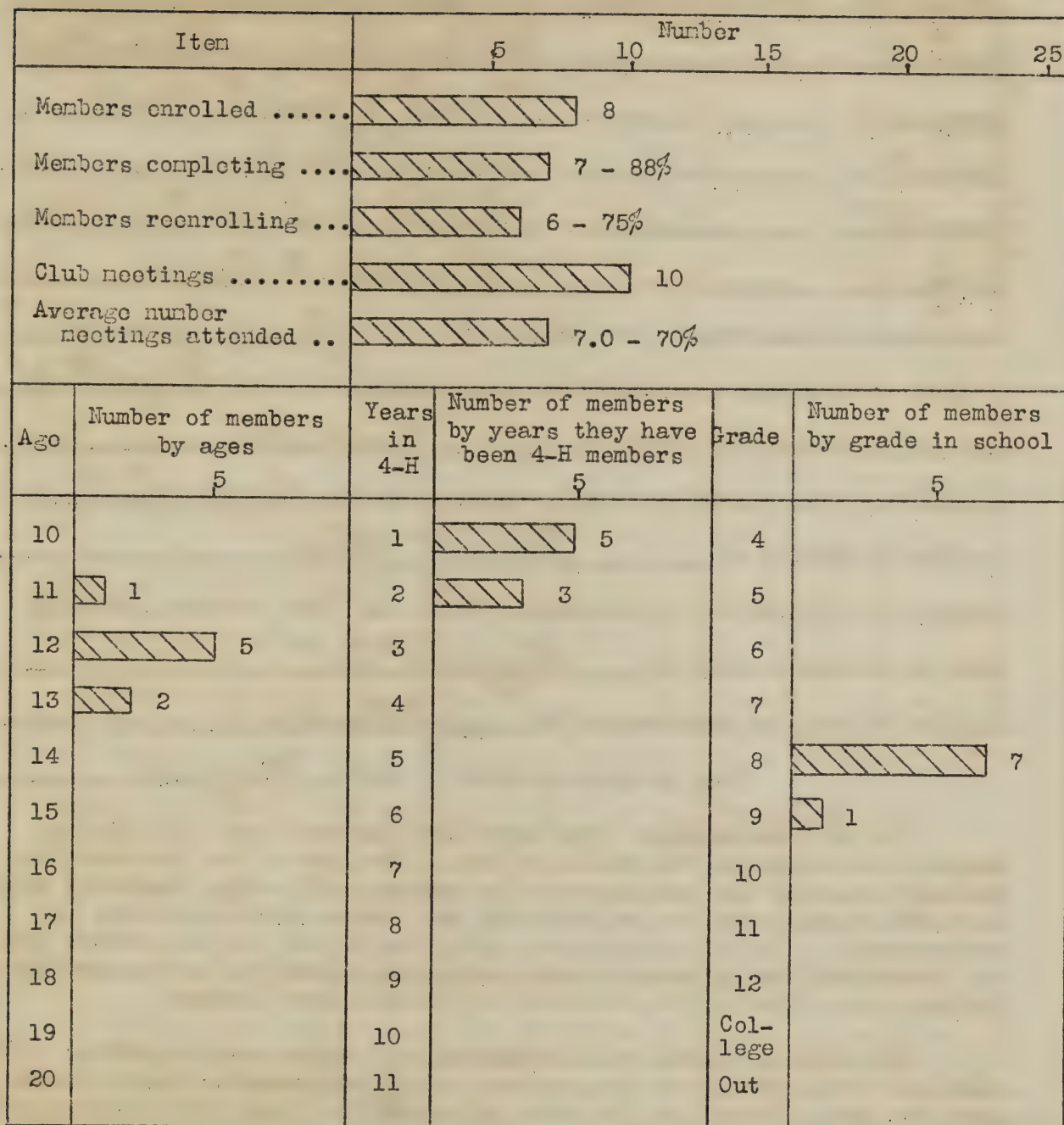


Figure 10. -- Statistical data on club formed by eight girl friends.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Problems to be discussed</u>
<u>May 31</u>	<u>Mrs. Castner</u>	<u>Preparing &amp; serving fruits</u>
<u>June 7</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Making cream soups &amp; custards</u>
<u>June 14</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Cereals &amp; quick breads</u>
<u>June 21</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Bread Making</u>
<u>June 28</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Salads and meal service</u>
<u>July 5</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>Demonstrations</u>

Individual demonstrations are planned for (dates) June 7, June 21

We plan to develop a demonstration team to appear (dates) August 10

Judging is planned for meetings June 28

We plan to develop judging team to appear (dates) August 10

We plan to exhibit at County fair

We plan to complete all requirements, write out final reports, and send them to extension agent by August 25

We plan to have our Achievement Day September 1

Date program approved by club May 24

The 10 club meetings (four more than planned) were held in a 4-month period beginning the middle of May. The plan of the club meetings included games at the beginning of the meeting, roll call, business, subject-matter demonstration and talks by the leader, health program, and refreshments. Judging practice and group singing and subject-matter talks and demonstrations by members were included at about half of the meetings. Meetings were held in the afternoon and lasted about 2 hours.

The club had seven music rehearsals and twice sang in public. They also had a club picnic at the park and a club achievement program at the leader's home. Members of the club indicated that they would like to have more parties and picnics next year. Principal outside events and number of members participating were district judging day, 7 members; district camp, 3; county demonstration day, 2; county fair, 6; county 4-H picnic, 7; and State fair, 1.

The funds collected by the club consisted of \$4.00 in cash won as first prize song group at the county song contest. One dollar was spent for a gift for the leader and the rest was divided among the members.

The leader took responsibility for preparing the club plan of work, notifying members of meetings, and giving subject-matter demonstrations and talks. Club officers directed the business meetings, kept club records, and were custodians of the funds. A committee of three members was in charge of the club picnic. Individual members led the club singing and were responsible for serving refreshments.

The Jolly Seven Cooking Club is similar in many ways to most of the 27 clubs studied that were homogeneous in respect to both age and years of 4-H membership. These clubs are likely to have small enrollments and younger members. The median number of members for this group of clubs was 8 and the average age of the members in 18 of the 27 clubs was below 14.

All but 3 of the 27 homogeneous clubs were home-economics clubs. In the development and execution of programs, there was a tendency for leader domination. In regular meetings considerably more time was devoted to subject-matter instruction than to the business meetings.

The homogeneous clubs had a higher than average percentage of attendance at club meetings (79). Not like the Jolly Seven Cooking Club, the group as a whole was definitely below average in percentage of completions (78) and percentage of reenrollment (57). Most of the homogeneous clubs had fewer local events and participated in fewer outside events than did the Jolly Seven Cooking Club.

#### SOME CLUBS ENROLL NEW MEMBERS EACH YEAR

In contrast to the homogeneous clubs are those clubs in which there is a wide variation in the age and in the 4-H experience of the membership. This type of membership is achieved by the clubs which each year enroll as new members the boys or girls in the community who have become eligible for 4-H membership. Such a club is the Ryno Dairy Club located in central Nebraska.

The accompanying table shows that among the 17 boy and 6 girl members there are 2 who have been in 4-H work for 10 years and 3 who started in 1939. They range in age from 10 to 20. The school status of the members ranges from 5th grade through high school and 4 are out of school.

The program was a continuation of several years of club work. Among the factors influencing the original selection of the dairy project and the program for 1939 were: The shortage of dairy stock and milk supply in the county; the abundance of roughage suitable for milk production; the possibility of financial returns; and the possibility of 4-H awards.

The club had been represented at the county and State fairs by judging and demonstration teams 4 different years. The members carried all three phases of the dairy project -- calf, heifer, and cow-calf. They owned 120 head, 60 of which were bred heifers or producing cows.



Only 6 of the 13 regular club meetings held were listed on the planned program (these filled the six blanks for regular meetings on the mimeographed form). Club meetings were held in the members' homes twice a month from March through August. Held in the evening, meetings typically consisted of a 40-minute business meeting, 20 minutes of subject-matter instruction including a demonstration by a member, 30 minutes devoted to judging, 45 minutes of group singing and games, and 30 minutes for refreshments.

A local achievement day and a picnic were held in September and a party in October. The club was represented by a team which won all its games in the county 4-H baseball league.

Participation in events outside the community was:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Members participating</u>
County judging day	June	20
Club camp	July	3
County fair	August	21
County demonstration day	August	2
State fair (200 miles away)	September	5
District judging day	September	1
County achievement day	October	14

The leader and assistant, both good dairymen, reported their contacts with the county agent and dairy specialists had been very helpful. The leader had frequent contacts with the agent, visiting his office about twice a month in addition to the 6 visits the agent made to club meetings or local events and 8 visits he made to the leader's home during the year. An interesting comment of the local leader was that the prime interest of club members was the development of good dairy herds, but they were spurred on by the possibility of national trips for both demonstration and judging teams.

Different parts of the varied program appealed to members of different ages. Typical answers to the question, "What things in this year's program do you think have been most valuable?", were, "The club meetings and making friends", by a 12-year-old member, and "Livestock judging" by an 18-year-old member. One older member is an efficient auctioneer who gives much of the credit for his poise to the training received as an officer of the Ryno Dairy Club and as a member of its dairy demonstration team.

In addition to the Ryno Dairy Club, 22 of the other clubs studied could be classified as having a heterogeneous membership from the standpoint of both age and years of 4-H membership. Most of these clubs were large, 14 of the 23 having 13 or more members. Six were of the "group-action" type and none was leader dominated. In their regular club meetings, 9 of the 23 devoted more time to the business meeting than to subject-matter instruction.

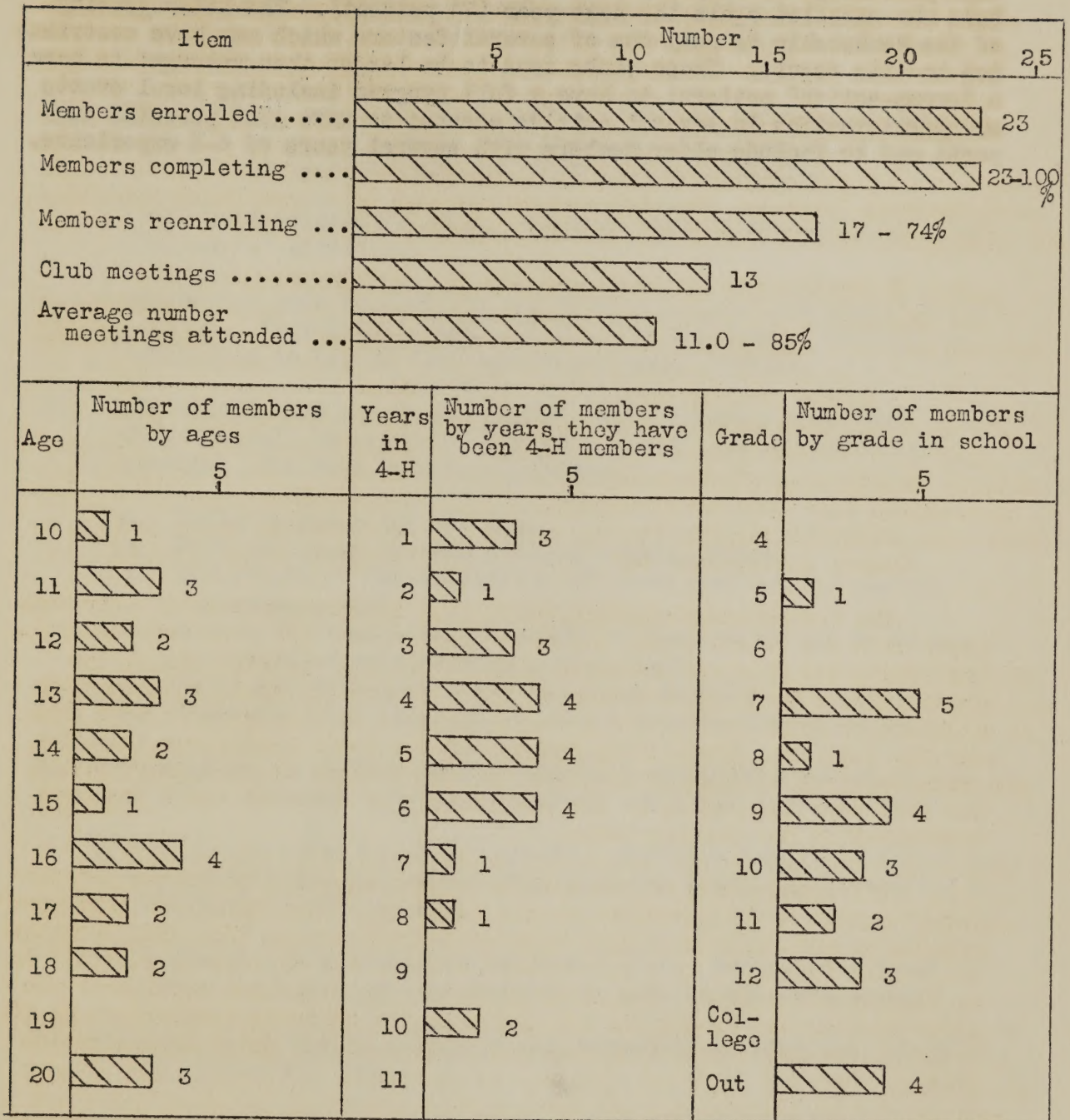


Figure 11. -- Statistical data on club in which new members enroll each year.



Attendance at club meetings was slightly less than average (75 percent). However, like the Ryno Dairy Club, this group as a whole had a high percentage of completions (90 percent) and a high percentage of members who enrolled again the next year (74 percent). The heterogeneity of the membership is only one of several factors which may have contributed to this result. These clubs tend to be larger than average; to have a "group-action" pattern; to have a full program including local events and participation in several outside events; to have good parental support; and to include older members with several years of 4-H experience.

1.913  
F3725

United States Department of Agriculture  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington, D. C.

TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS FROM STUDY OF LOCAL 4-H CLUB PROGRAMS  
IN IOWA, NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, AND SOUTH DAKOTA

1. The club program should grow out of local conditions and needs. State and county 4-H programs should be adjusted to the local situation.
2. A variation in age of members and in tenure of membership means a stronger club. Old clubs should be encouraged to absorb as new members the younger boys and girls in the community.
3. A year-round program is best. Interest lags if months go by without any 4-H activity.
4. Group action gets results. A 4-H Club is a boys' and girls' organization. They like to learn by working together. Guidance not domination is needed from agents and local leaders.
5. Clubs should have a written program democratically developed. Copies should be available for each member and for members' parents. The best programs include:
  - a. Definite goals for the year.
  - b. Date and place of each meeting - when, where.
  - c. Assignment of responsibility for each part of the meeting program - who?
  - d. Method of presenting and nature of subject matter to be considered at each meeting - what, how?
  - e. Plans for club activities and local events.
  - f. Plans for participation in events outside the community.
6. Strong clubs are active in the community and participation in outside events. Contacts with other members and clubs develop enthusiasm.
7. A good club meeting is well balanced. Business meeting, subject matter, activities, and recreation, each has a part in broadening the experience of 4-H members.
8. The project is the foundation of a 4-H Club. 4-H members value highly the training they receive in farming and homemaking.
9. Interest and support of parents and community is important in building strong 4-H Clubs.

---

Prepared by State club leaders in Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, and R. A. Turner and Barnard Joy of Federal Extension Service. Division of Field Studies and Training, Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture.



